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the execution of these intentions the public may judge; and to their decision, and, if merited, their support, the proprietors commit the undertaking.

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DOCUMENTS.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Humble Petition of the undersigned Weavers, and other Working Manufacturers, of the town of Chorley, and the neighbourhood thereof,

Showeth,

That your petitioners have been for a long time labouring under a state of the utmost distress; as your Hon. House will easily conceive, on being informed, that whereas the price of the necessities of life has been nearly doubled since the commencement of hostilities with France, in 1793, the wages of your petitioners are reduced two-thirds.

That in these afflicting circumstances, the feelings of your petitioners are greatly aggravated by their knowledge, that whilst their utmost exertions in labour cannot save them from starving, vast sums of the public money are bestowed upon individuals as the salaries of sinecure places:—that is to say, of places, the holders of which receive wages without performing any work for the same.

That in proof of their assertion, that vast sums of the public money are thus bestowed, selecting a few instances out of a great variety of the same nature, they beg leave to remind your Honourable House, that the Right Hon. George Rose holds the sinecure office of Clerk of the Parliament, with a salary of £3,278 per annum;—that the Right Hon. Charles George, Lord Arden holds the sinecure offices of Register of the High court of Admiralty, and of Register of the High Court of Appeal for Prizes, for which he receives, clear of deductions, £12,554 per annum;—and that the Earl Camden, and the Marquis of Buckingham hold the sinecure offices of Tellers of the Exche-

quer, for which offices they receive,—the latter £23,093, the former £23,117 per annum.

That your petitioners have, from time to time, been informed of large sums of money being paid out of the public purse to distressed foreigners; on which head, passing by the sums paid as subsidies to the Portuguese and Sicilian Courts,—to the Duke and Duchess of Brunswick, and divers other German Refugees, they beg leave to call to the recollection of your Honourable House, the sums paid to the exiled Catholic Clergy and Laity of France, which amounted in the year

1794,...to...	£. 99,548	7	6
1795,...to...	135,800	0	0
1796,...to...	199,890	0	0
1797,...to...	177,480	9	7
1798,...to...	161,333	7	0
1799,...to...	187,886	10	11
1800,...to...	195,713	5	1
1801,...to...	180,772	0	0

That though your petitioners presume to be of opinion, that in the season of their distress, they have as strong a claim upon the public purse of the nation, as any foreigners whatsoever; and though they are apprised, that the precedent of the special distribution in the year 1801, of £24,226, to the parishes where the weaving of silk is carried on in London, would justify them in applying to your Honourable House for direct pecuniary relief, they deem it more becoming them as Englishmen, to declare to your Honourable House, that they would far prefer to the receipt of any extraordinary assistance, a dependence upon their own unimpeded industry; and that they therefore do respectfully, but earnestly, call upon the members of your Honourable House well to consider the premises,—and by the powers by the constitution vested

in your Honourable House, to check and restrain the extravagant expenditure of the public money; which, by occasioning the imposition of enormous taxes, increases the price of the necessaries of life, and to compel his Majesty's Ministers to adopt a line of policy, which, by conciliating neutral nations, may effect the revival of trade, which alone, by renewing the strength of the nation, can, under the Divine Providence, finally secure to it the blessing of an honourable and lasting peace.

To such of our readers who are interested in the question of the depreciation of bank paper, and the late legislative attempts to keep up its supposed value by force, we recommend the following

Speech of the Rt. Hon. Lord King, in the House of Lords, on Tuesday, July 2d, 1811, upon the second reading of Earl Stanhope's Bill, respecting Guineas and Bank Notes.

MY LORDS,

Entertaining strong and decided opinions on the subject of paper currency, which I have never lost any opportunity of expressing, both in my place in this House, and by every other means in my power, I have always been ready to discuss the subject in general, and naturally feel, at present, most anxious to justify my own conduct, in consequence of the charges which, on a late debate, have, in my absence, been made against me.

Under these circumstances, I must crave your Lordships' pardon, if I feel compelled to speak of myself, and of my private concerns, in an assembly where such topics in general are so improper; but the course of the late debate renders that detail imperative on me, and, indeed, the question has assumed that shape that it cannot be treated otherwise than by dividing it into two principal parts: 1st, My individual conduct; and secondly, the general subject of the present depreciated currency of the country, and the alarming projects held out of destroying the ancient standard of value, and of subverting the basis, and denomination, of the lawful money of the realm.

I shall therefore proceed to state plainly and explicitly, my reasons for refusing at this time to receive Bank-notes at their nominal value, in certain cases, and to avail myself of the remedy provided by the law.

Since the last decision in the House of Commons, it appears to be the declared intention of the Government, that the restriction shall continue to the end of the war, however distant that period may be.

The subject is thus brought home to the individual interest of every man whose property is yearly, even monthly, deteriorated in consequence of the unnatural state of the currency of the country. Under these circumstances, therefore, I have thought this the proper time to make a stand in defence of my property, and to endeavour to protect myself from further spoliation and injury.

During the last twelve years, we have seen the depreciation of Bank-notes progressively advancing in the most alarming manner; and every hope and prospect of amelioration being destroyed by the recent resolution of the House of Commons, there appeared to remain no other choice than either to submit with tame and patient resignation to receive payment in currency, of whatever value it shall please the Bank of England, in their forbearance and moderation, to permit henceforth to belong to the currency of the country; or to have recourse to the remedy which individuals possess by law, and which I shall hereafter show has been purposely allowed and secured to them by the law.

There is also another reason, which I confess has had some influence with me in this determination. It was asked, insultingly, in another place, whether any person had ever yet ventured to refuse Bank paper in payment or satisfaction of a lawful debt; and on that foundation, it was attempted to be argued, that, in point of fact, there existed no difference in value between paper and gold, and no actual depreciation. By bringing this question to issue, at least one of the remaining wretched supports of this fatal system will be overthrown.

In this state of things, for the defence of my property, I have thought it advisable, in the management of my private concerns, to inform my tenants holding lands under old leases, and under old leases only, that I can no longer continue to receive Bank-notes at their nominal value, in payment, or satisfaction, for such contracts; and I am now prepared to assert, not the bare legality, for that is unquestionable, but, what I am much more anxious to prove, the justice and equity of the course I have thought myself obliged